(iv) **M/s. Kodagu Coffee Curing Works, Kushalnagar:** The curer has paid the value of stocks to the Coffee Board. Other dues towards Purchase Tax, Excise Duty and pool expenses are being recovered in instalments from January, 1994.

Basic Objectives of EPZs

3517. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basic objectives for which the Export Processing Zones were set up in the country;

(b) the extent to which these EPZs have come up to the objectives laid down;

(c) the reasons for these EPZs not coming upto the desired objectives; and

(d) the steps taken to streamline and revamp the policies and procedures to achieve the basic objectives for which EPZs had been set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) the establishment of Export Processing Zones, inter-alia, aims at earning foreign exchange, stimulating domestic and foreign investments in exports oriented industries and expanding employment opportunities.

(b) EPZs have upto 31.3.1994 cumulatively achieved exports of Rs. 8761 crores. Foreign and domestic investments at present is of the order of Rs. 588 crores while the Zone units currently provide employment to about 47800 persons.

(c) and (d) Even though the Zones have, by and large, achieved their objectives, steps are taken from time to time to improve the export competitiveness of units located therein. Some recent initiatives in this direction include rationalistion of duty structure on domestic disposal of finished products, waste and scrap, higher access to the local market and flexible value addition norms for electronic products, simplification of custom procedure and liberalised debonding formalities, Areas of activity in EPZs have also been broadened to include trading, re-export after repacking/labelling, repairs, reconditoning and re-engineering.

ITPO Survey for Identifying Areas of Trade with South Africa

3518. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) which recently concluded a market survey in South Africa has identified key ares for trade with South Africa;

(b) if so, which are these and how Government propose to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(c) how India is being projected as a modern State to get the required success in the developed South African market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey has identified various areas for export to South Africa viz. garments, textiles, home furnishings, rice, spices, coffee, computer software and hardware, handtools and machine tools, surgical and medical equipments, toys, handicrafts, leather goods, footwear, bulk drugs, chemical and dyes and earth moving equipments etc. The Govt. looks at South Africa as a new emerging economic force in the African Continent and India desires to sefely use it as a launching pad for promoting trade with the entire African and Latin American Continent. Effort is being made to project India's competence to supply high-tech consumer engineering goods. ITPO therefore had organised a seminar in collaboration with World Trade Centre at Bombay on 11th June, 1994 to dissemi-

nate findings of the survey and to help the trade and industry for formulating trade strategy for untapped South African Market. ITPO is also organising a major exclusive Indian Exhibition namely INDEXPO-94 from 22nd to 28th August, 1994 in Johannesburg, South Africa where 157 Indian companies are exhibiting their products. Additionally more then 100 constituents of Export Promotion Councils and State of Gujarat are also participating in the exhibition. The fair is being publicised in South Africa in a big way to attract business visitors from South Africa and neighbouring countries.

(c) The companies for participation in the exhibition have been carefully selected so as to project India as a modern State and to tap the trade potential of South African developed market. Major Indian companies who represent them as producers of high-tech consumer goods/engineering items are participating in this exhibition and are expected to get extremely good business in this fair.

Compulsion behind amending Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule, 1977

3519. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1762 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1994 and state:

(a) what were the compulsions behind amending the Standard of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule 1977;

(b) whether public opinion was taken into account before embarking on such drastic changes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rule, 1977 were amended to give effect to the recommendations of a Standing Committee constituted to examine, review and make suitable recommendations to the Government from time to time on changes in the provisions of the Rules and policy matters related thereto. The Ministry, while examining the recommendations of the Committee, kept in view the economic liberalisation policy of the Government and the compulsions arising out of the new packaging techniques.

(b) and (c). The Committee, has among others, representatives from consumer organisations operating in the Northern Eastern, Western and Southern regions of the country. Representation has been given to these Organisations with the object of ensuring that consumer's interests are safeguarded while formulating the recommendations.

100% BOUs in Orissa

3520. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 100% Export Oriented Units that have been set up in different parts of Orissa and the performance thereof;

(b) whether there is a need to set up export oriented Industrial Estates in different States;

(c) whether there is a vast scope for such Industrial Estates in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Four 100% BOUs are presently in operation in Orissa and their export performance during 1993-94 has been Rs. 15013.75 lakhs.

(b) and (d). With a view to strengthening the infrastructure for Export Production, Government has recently decided to